

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 95000718

**Date Listed:** 6/8/95

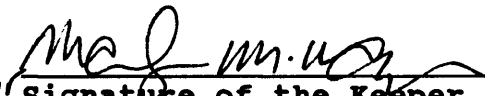
**Quitman County Courthouse and Old Jail  
Property Name**

**Quitman  
County**

**GEORGIA  
State**

Georgia County Courthouses TR  
**Multiple Name**

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**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

*for*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Keeper**

0/13/95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Action**

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Section No. 8

The nomination is amended to delete 1920 (when the former courthouse burned), c. 1965 (when the old Jail closed), and 1994 (when the jail was renovated) as significant dates, since these dates do not relate to the significance being claimed for the resources.

These changes have been confirmed with the Georgia SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Quitman County Courthouse and Old Jail  
other names/site number n/a

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street  
city, town Georgetown ( ) vicinity of  
county Quitman code GA 239  
state Georgia code GA zip code 31754

( ) not for publication

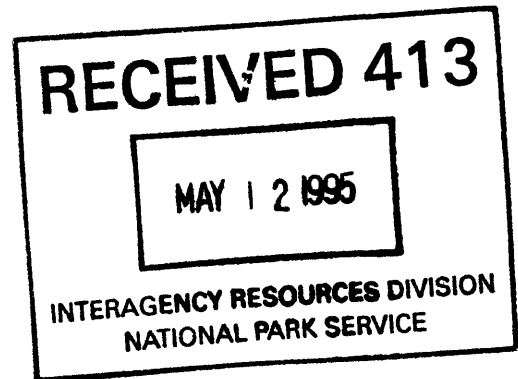
**3. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

- ( ) private
- (X) public-local
- ( ) public-state
- ( ) public-federal

**Category of Property**

- (X) building(s)
- ( ) district
- ( ) site
- ( ) structure
- ( ) object



**Number of Resources within Property:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	1

**Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1**

**Name of related multiple property listing:** County Courthouses in Georgia

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards  
Signature of certifying official

5/05/95  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Mag M. My

6/18/95

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

for

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse  
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

### Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: STRIPPED CLASSICAL

### Materials:

foundation	concrete/brick
walls	brick
roof	wood
other	n/a

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Quitman County Courthouse is located in the county seat of Georgetown in Quitman County in southwest Georgia on the Alabama border, overlooking the Chattahoochee River and Lake Walter F. George. Designed by T. Firth Lockwood of Columbus, Georgia, the courthouse was constructed in 1939 with funds from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (commonly known as PWA).

The Quitman County Courthouse is a one story, brick building with a wood shingled roof and concrete and brick foundation. The main block of the building has a hipped roof with four brick chimneys. The two side wings have flat roofs. It is a Stripped Classical-style building with Colonial Revival detailing. There is a limestone beltcourse around the main block. The main entrance portion has limestone surrounds and detailing, such as pilasters with bas relief Ionic capitals. The double, wood and glass doors have an 8/8/8 window on each side, recessed in the limestone. The other windows are 8/8 double hung windows with the windows to the courtroom having 4-light transoms.

The layout of the interior is offices around a t-shaped main hallway. The courtroom is straight ahead from the main entrance and down nine steps. With the exception of the offices which have carpeting, all of the flooring inside is wood. The walls are plaster with vertical, beaded board wainscoting and the ceilings are acoustical tile. The wood paneled doors, hardware, and some fixtures are original. The door surrounds are wood with a classical influence suggesting pilasters. The courtroom has an understated classical influence with the simple almost severe judge's bench and pews.

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The only alteration that has been made to the courthouse is a small concrete block addition at the rear of the building completed in 1986 to hold records.

To the northeast of the courthouse is the Old Quitman County Jail which was constructed in 1891 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 13, 1981. It is a two-story, brick building with a raised-seam metal roof. The cupola on the roof is a replica of the original which was stolen. There are large recessed brick panels on the second floor. The windows, which have bars on them, and the door openings are arched. The walls of the jail are sixteen inches thick and the ceilings are barreled shape and corrugated. The only major change to the jail is a small brick building which is currently being added to the rear for additional office space. The jail, which was vacated in 1965, is being rehabilitated for use as county offices.

The Quitman County Health Department was constructed in 1983 to the southeast of the courthouse and is noncontributing. The courthouse is situated on flat terrain. The grounds consist of a few trees, grass, and two nonhistoric historical markers.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally     statewide     locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A     B     C     D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**     N/A

A     B     C     D     E     F     G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ARCHITECTURE  
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

**Period of Significance:**

1891-1945

**Significant Dates:**

1891 - Jail Completed  
1920 - Old Courthouse burned  
1939 - Present courthouse completed  
c.1965 - Jail Closed  
1994 - Renovation of Jail

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

T. Firth Lockwood, Jr. - Architect of Courthouse  
D.M. Still - Contractor of Courthouse

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Quitman County Courthouse is significant in architecture as a good and intact example of a Stripped Classical-style community landmark type of building built during the 1930s. The classical style of architecture became popular for use in public buildings after the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 which featured the "White City, which was made up of classical-style buildings which housed the exhibits. The use of classical elements in public buildings continued until the mid-20th century. As reflected in the Quitman County Courthouse, the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, as seen in its lack of ornamentation. This more straight forward style can in part be attributed to the higher cost of building and the lessening of available public funds during and after the Depression, as well as to the rise of modern architecture which favored function over form and a lack of stylistic elements.

The Stripped Classical-style courthouse, with its suggestion of columns, simple cornice, and symmetry has understated classical detailing. The hipped-roof and chimneys are reminiscent of Colonial Revival stylistic elements which reflect the architectural trends found in domestic architecture of this period. Otherwise, the lack of adornment represents a transition between classical influenced architecture with pediments and pilasters and modern architecture which is characterized by plain wall surfaces and no stylistic detailing as seen in International style buildings. This Stripped Classical style or "starved classical" style was commonly used for governmental buildings from the 1920s through the 1940s and represents the synthesis of the "traditionalists," who favored the use of classical details, and the "modernists," who favored simple, unadorned buildings and rejected historical antecedents.

The intact architectural features on the interior, such as the wood floors, beaded board wainscoting, door surrounds, and original hardware, enhance the architectural significance of the courthouse.

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Quitman County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, was the most modern in Georgetown and reflected the architectural trends of the period. As a centerpiece for public gatherings, the courthouse provides a sense of place and cohesiveness for the citizens and symbolizes the permanence, stability, and strength of a county.

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The Quitman County Courthouse is also significant as a design of the prominent architect T. Firth Lockwood, Jr. (1894-1963) from Columbus, Georgia. Lockwood practiced with his father from 1914 to 1920 with the exception of the World War I years. After 1920, he practiced by himself until he died in 1963. Lockwood is known around Georgia and Alabama for his designs of public buildings and residences. He designed the 1935 Colonial Revival-style Calhoun County Courthouse.

The previously listed Old Quitman County Jail is significant in terms of architecture as a good, intact example of a late 19th-century jail. The extremely well-built jail has sixteen inch thick, masonry walls, its original cell doors, and some original hardware. The jail is in the process of being renovated for use as additional county office space.

In terms of politics and government, the courthouse is significant because it has been the center for county governmental activity since it was built in 1939. In Georgia and throughout the South, county government has traditionally been the strongest form of local government. The present courthouse is the second Quitman County Courthouse. The first one was also on this site and burned in 1920. This property is also significant for the county jail which was the only county correctional facility from when it was built in 1891 to 1965 when the new one was built away from Georgetown.

The courthouse is also significant in government because it was built with Federal monies from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (which became PWA in 1939) funds during the New Deal era. The courthouse represents the federal government's efforts to provide employment and assist communities during the Depression as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's economic stimulus programs and a major Depression-era public works project for Quitman County.

The Quitman County Courthouse is one of 19 Georgia courthouses built from 1930 to 1945. It is one of 12 documented courthouses that was funded by the federal government through one of its Depression Era relief programs.

**National Register Criteria**

The Quitman County Courthouse and Jail are eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the political and governmental history of Quitman County. They are also eligible under Criterion C as good intact examples of a late 19th century jail and a Stripped Classical-style of courthouse.



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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

n/a

**Period of significance (justification)**

The jail was constructed in 1891 and the fifty-year cut-off of historical significance is 1945.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The contributing resources, the jail and courthouse, were built within the period of significance and retain a high degree of integrity. The noncontributing resource, the Quitman County Health Department, was built after the period of significance.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

Quitman County was incorporated in 1858 from parts of Randolph and Stewart Counties. Georgetown is the county seat of Quitman County which encompasses 170 square miles along the western border of Georgia. The county was named for General John Anthony Quitman (1799-1858), an aide to General Zachary Taylor in the Mexican War, who later became Governor of Mississippi. Since its beginning the economy of Quitman has been based on peanuts, cotton, livestock, and timber.

The first courthouse was a two-story, wooden building which burned in 1920. A warehouse was rented by the county for use as a courthouse from 1920 to 1939. The present courthouse was constructed in 1939 using Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (which became PWA in 1939) funds. Designed by T. Firth Lockwood, Jr. of Columbus and built by D.M. Still, the courthouse has undergone few changes.

The original jail was a wooden building built in 1859. The second Quitman County Jail was constructed in 1891 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 13, 1981. It was used as the county jail till 1965 when the present jail was built away from downtown Georgetown. The jail is in the process of renovation for use as additional office space for the county.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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"History of Quitman County." Quitman County Vertical Files. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Georgia.

Sharp, Leslie N. "County Courthouses in Georgia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, amended submission, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** (X) N/A

- ( ) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- (X) previously listed in the National Register Jail (8-13-81)
- ( ) previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ( ) designated a National Historic Landmark
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- (X) State Historic Preservation Office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

n/a

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approximately 2 acres

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 168850 Northing 3529140

**Verbal Boundary Description**

This nomination encompasses the property which includes the Quitman County Courthouse and Old Jail, as indicated by the heavy black line on the attached tax map, drawn to scale.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the all of the property owned by Quitman County at this location which includes the Quitman County Courthouse, Old Jail, and Health Department.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant  
**organization** Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)  
**street & number** 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 522-5022 **date** April 13, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

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Continuation Sheet

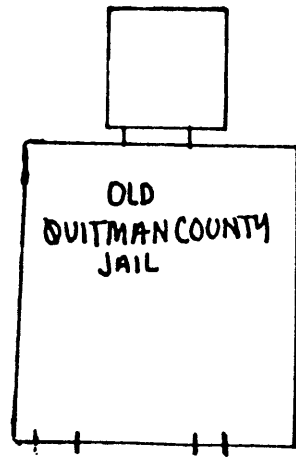
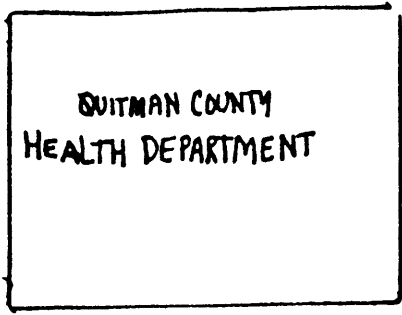
Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Quitman County Courthouse and Old Jail  
**City or Vicinity:** Georgetown  
**County:** Quitman  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 1995

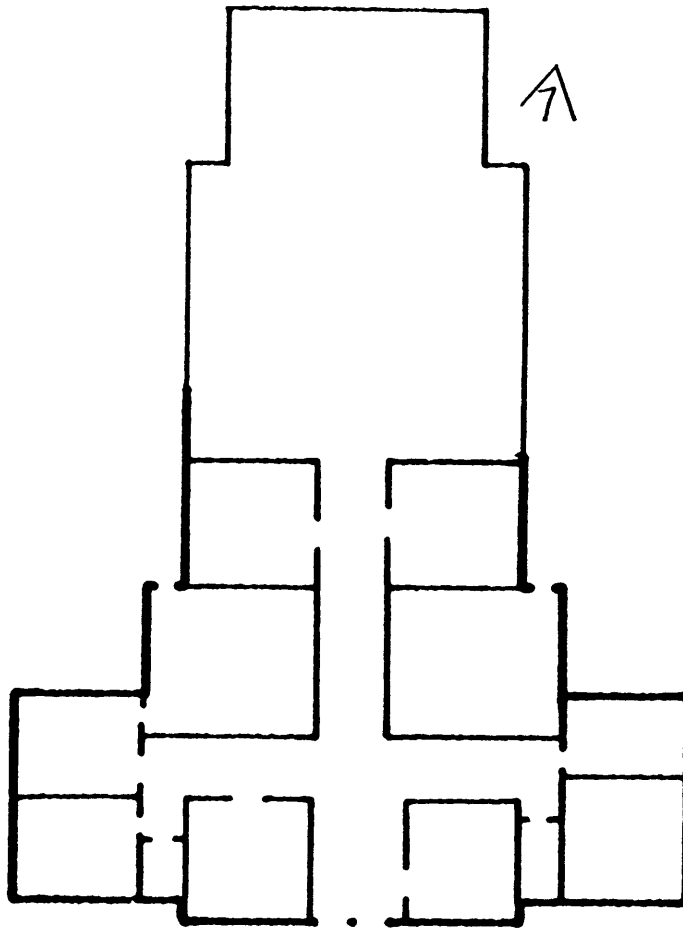
**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 7: Quitman County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 7: Front facade detail; photographer facing west.
- 3 of 7: South facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 7: North facade; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 7: Hallway; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 7: Courtroom; photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 7: Old Jail; photographer facing west-northwest.



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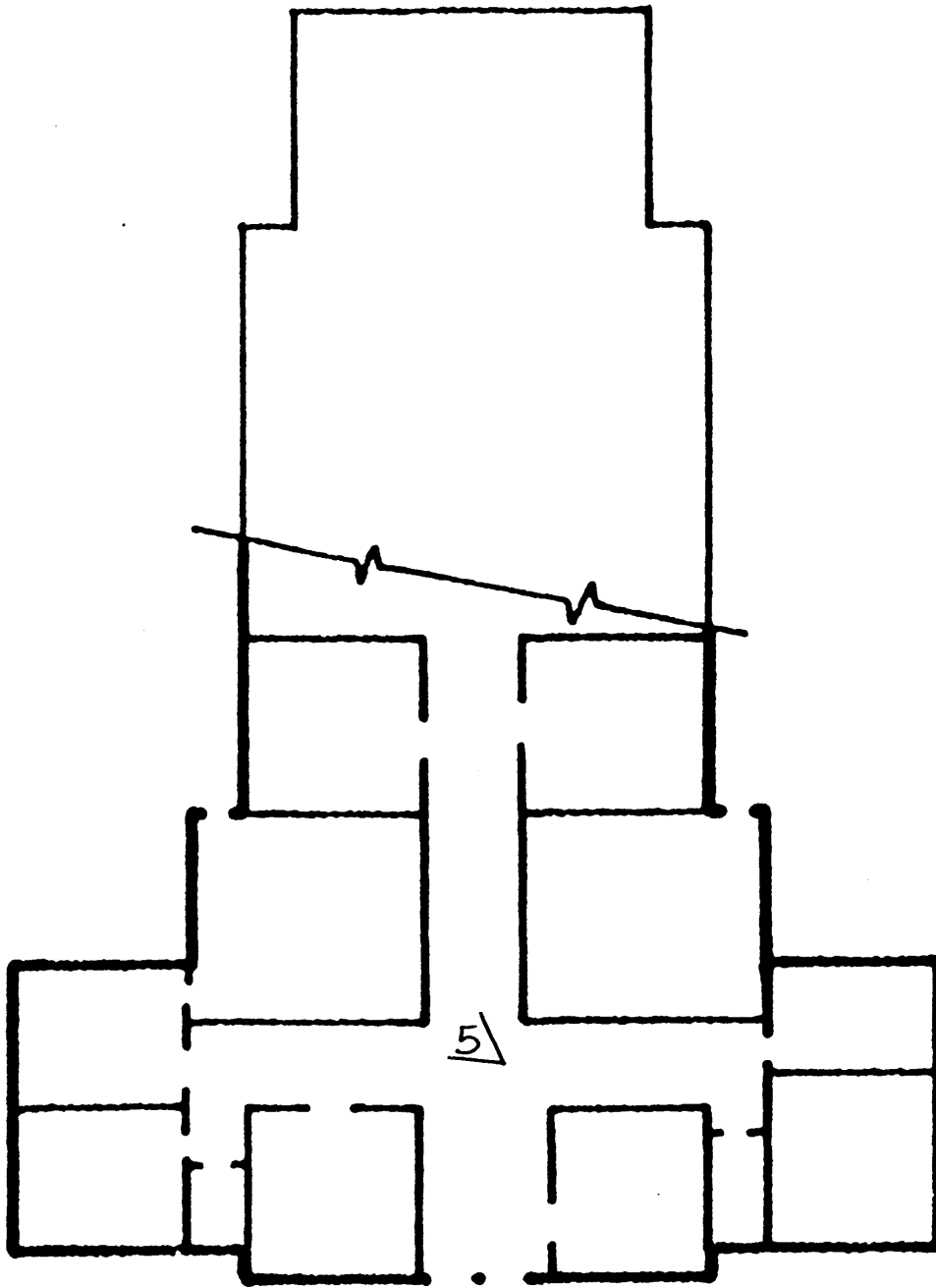
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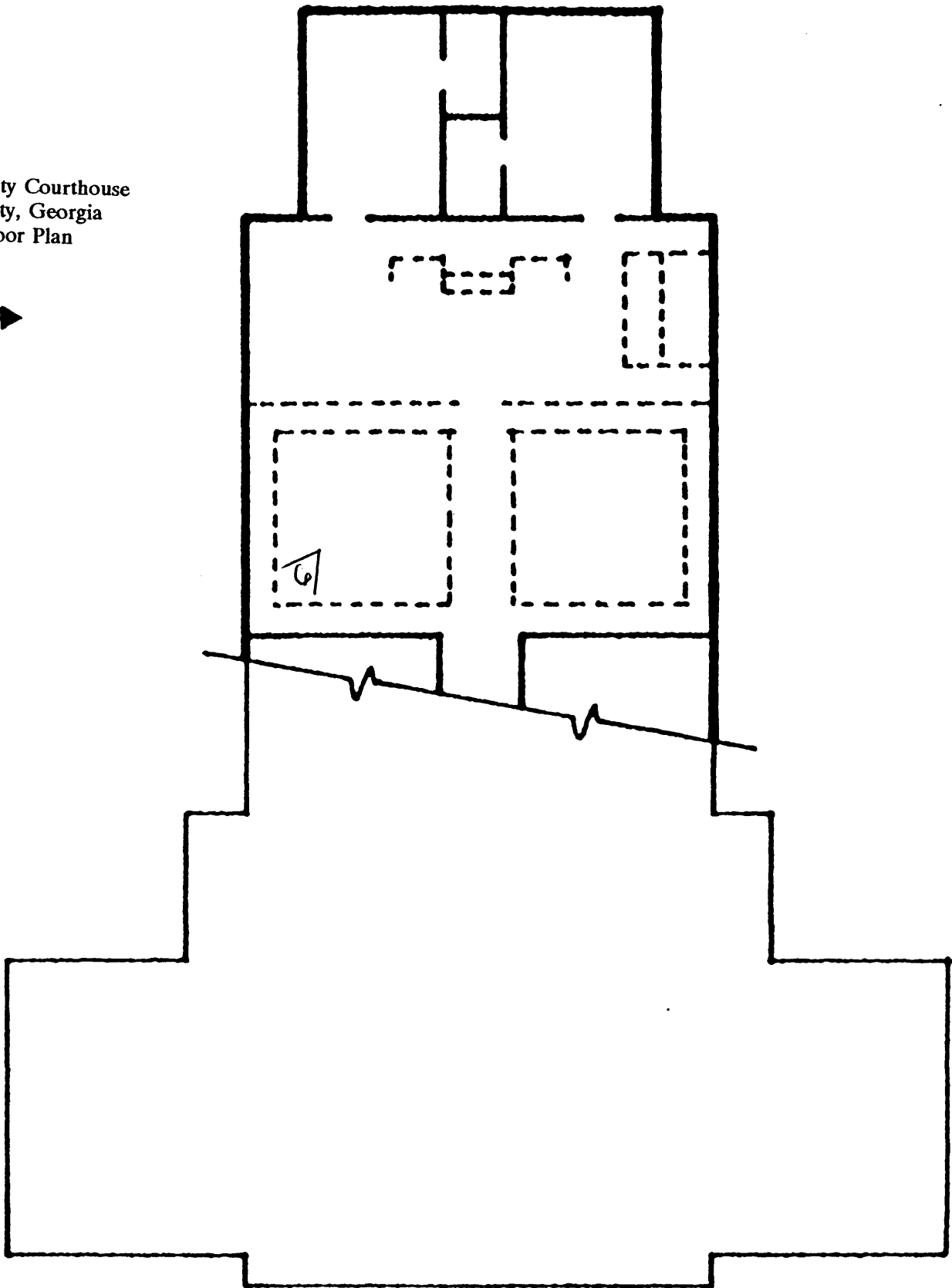
Quitman County Courthouse and Old Jail  
Quitman County, Georgia  
Site Plan  
Not to Scale  
Photographs: >  
North: →



**FIRST FLOOR**

Quitman County Courthouse  
Quitman County, Georgia  
First Floor Plan  
Not to Scale  
Photographs: >  
North: →

Quitman County Courthouse  
Quitman County, Georgia  
Courthouse Floor Plan  
Not to Scale  
Photographs:  
North: →



**COURTROOM**

Quitman County Courthouse and Old Jail  
 Quitman County, Georgia  
 Tax Map  
 National Register Boundary: **——**  
 1" = 100'  
 North: ↑

